FOL 25-7 LIBYA R13

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY m lt DATE 12 JUL 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
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SUBJ: LIBYAN COUP

1. NEWS OF LIBYAN COUP FIRST REPORTED LOCALLY MORNING SEPTEMBER 1 BY SEMI-OFFICIAL MAP. MAP REPORTING WAS FACTUAL AND FRAGMENTARY BASED ON OTHER WIRE SERVICE RELEASES.

2. OFFICIAL MEDIA WHICH INCLUDES RADIO AND TV AND ARABIC-LANGUAGE DAILY AL ANBA CHARACTERIZED BY TOTAL BLACKOUT OF NEWS ON COUP.

3. WHILE SEPTEMBER 2 ISTIQLAL DAILY AL ALAM GAVE BANNER HEADLINES TO COUP WITH PICTURES OF KING IDRISS AND PRINCE HASSAN ER REDA, ACCOMPANYING STORY WAS FACTUAL AND BASED ON REUTERS REPORT. ONLY EDITORIALIZING WAS IN SEPTEMBER 2 ISTIQLAL L'OPINION, WHICH WHILE ADMITTING SITUATION CONFUSED AND THAT IT BEST NEITHER TO APPLAUD NOR CONDEMN, SPECULATED TEAM OF RULING OFFICERS MAY BE BAATHIST IN ORIENTATION. EDITORIAL ATTRIBUTED THIS SPECULATION TO "CERTAIN OBSERVERS IN TUNIS" AND ADDED "FIVE POINTS" OF RCC COMMUNIQUE TENDED CONFIRM THIS ORIENTATION.

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4. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, COUP WHICH DEPOSED FELLOW MAGHREBIAN MONARCH CANNOT HELP BUT HAVE STRONG IMPACT ON THINKING OF KING HASSAN II. BALCKOUT OF NEWS BY OFFICIAL MEDIA PROBABLY COMBINATION OF NOT WANTING ACCORD COUP UNDUE PUBLICITY AND GOM ATTITUDE OF WAIT AND SEE.
TASCA

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